

35. (NEW) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:

a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and

a mirror!

said head comprising:

a molded thin external plastic shell; and

a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said shell.

36. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 35, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount, wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

37. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 36, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

38. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 37, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells are rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

39. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 37, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and

a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

40. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 36, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its periphery.

41. (NEW) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:

a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and

a mirror,

said head comprising:

an external plastic shell;

a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said shell; and

a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said

mount,

wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

42. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 41, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

43. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 42, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells are rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

44. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 42, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and

a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

45. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 41, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its periphery.

46. (NEW) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:

a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and

a mirror;

said head comprising:

a front molded thin external plastic shell;

a rear molded thin external plastic shell meeting said front shell at

a joint; and

a foam core, said foam anchoring and supporting said front and rear shells.

47. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 46, wherein said joint is an overlapping joint.

48. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 47, wherein said overlapping joint is formed from a projection, extending from the edge of one of the front or rear shells, received within a groove within the edge of the other of said front or rear shells.

49. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 46, wherein said joint is a butt joint.

50. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 49, further comprising a hidden internal chamber formed between edges of said front and rear shells for preventing foam escaping to the exterior of said shells.

51. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 50, wherein at least one of said front and rear shells terminates in parallel double edges to provide a double butt joint against the other of said front and rear shells, thereby forming said hidden internal chamber.

52. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 48, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount, wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

53. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 52, wherein said head is pivotable with respect to said mount.

54. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 53, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells are rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

55. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 54, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and

a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

56. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 55, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces from adjacent said mount to its periphery.

57. (NEW) A vehicle external mirror assembly comprising:

a head;

a mount for attaching said head to a vehicle; and

a mirror;

said head comprising:

a front thin external plastic shell;

a rear thin external plastic shell; and

a foam core, the foam anchoring and supporting the shell.

58. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 57, further comprising a porous foam gasket sandwiched between edges of said front and rear shells.

59. (NEW) The vehicle exterior mirror assembly according to claim 58, further comprising a load diffuser extending laterally into said foam core from said mount, wherein, in use, loads acting on said head are transmitted through said foam to said load diffuser.

60. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 59, wherein said housing is pivotable with respect to said mount.

61. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 60, wherein the interior surface of both said front and rear shells are rough to improve adhesion to said foam.

62. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 59, where said mount has a pivot assembly receiving portion, a vehicle body abutment and connection portion, and a body, said body comprising:

a molded thin external plastic body shell; and

a second foam core, said second foam anchoring and supporting said body shell.

63. (NEW) The vehicle external mirror assembly according to claim 59, wherein the stiffness of said diffuser reduces as its extends away from said mount.

64. (NEW) A method for manufacturing a vehicle external mirror housing, for housing a rear vision mirror, comprising the steps of:

molding a first thin plastic component for use as a front shell;

molding a second thin plastic component for use as a rear shell;

positioning and retaining said first and second shells against each other in an edge-to-edge relationship so as to create an internal void; and

substantially filling said void with foam to form a rigid assembly bonded together by said foam.

65. (NEW) The method according to claim 64, wherein injection compression molding is used to mold both of said front and rear thin plastic components.

66. (NEW) The method according to claim 65, further comprising a sub-step of sandwiching a porous foam gasket between the edges of said first and second shells, whereby said gasket allows the escape of air but not foam from said void.

67. (NEW) The method according to claim 66, wherein said second thin plastic component includes an aperture for receiving a motor mechanism assembly, further comprising the step of positioning said motor mechanism assembly over said aperture and wherein said foam bonds said motor mechanism assembly in position.

68. (NEW) A method for manufacturing a vehicle external mirror housing, for housing a rear vision mirror, comprising the steps of:

molding a pre-form component;

blow molding said pre-form component into a component having the external shape of a said mirror housing;

substantially filling said blow molded component with foam to form a rigid assembly.

69. (NEW) A method for manufacturing a vehicle external mirror housing, for housing a rear vision mirror, comprising the steps of:

molding a first thin plastic component for use as a front shell;

gas assist injection molding a second thin plastic component for use as a rear shell;

positioning and retaining said first and second shells against each other in an edge-to-edge relationship so as to create an internal void; and

substantially filling said void with foam to form a rigid assembly bonded together by said foam.

70. (NEW) The method according to claim 69, wherein injection compression molding is used to mold both of said front and rear thin plastic components.

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